

Loud & Clear

Winter 2005 • Volume 17, No. 1



Happy New Year



From the Staff at Access Services!

Jeanette Studley

Branch Manager

Beena Pandey

Office Manager (I, O, U, V, W)*

Daniel Ramos

Talking Books Manager (M)*

Carole McElvain

Outreach Manager (H, Q)*

Rashmi Malhotra

Administrative Assistant (D)*

Reader Advisers

Laurie doCarmo (E, F, G,)*

Jennifer Durand (J, L, N, R, T)*

Dorothy Halligan (B, K, Y, Z)*

Sandy Japikse (A, C, P)*

Myrna Mouchon (S)*

Vicky Soto

Pages

Barbara Hicks

Jyoti Shirke

Ruth White

Welcome to our newest staff member, Vicky Soto. Vicki will be helping with book delivery to the various senior homes we visit.

*Find the first letter of *your* last name. The staff member with that letter in parenthesis is your Reader Adviser. If you receive print books by mail, phone Access Services for the name of your Reader Adviser.



Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center
Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012

703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365

FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Dear Readers, Colleagues, Friends:

I have been privileged to spend the last 20 years attempting to remove barriers to Library service for senior and disabled citizens in Fairfax County. I started this work before computers and when the bookmobile was an important part of our outreach. I have witnessed significant progress in Library accessibility as well as fair and equal treatment for residents in general. The successes that we have had are due to a dedicated staff at Access Services and continued support from the Library Board, Library Director Sam Clay and the Library Administration.

There is still much to be done, but I have decided to pass the torch to an unknown new person with new ideas and new energy. I look forward to more time with my husband, children and grandchildren; and to travel, volunteer work and hobbies. My energy has come from the wonderful customers of Access Services. Thank you for the support and friendship.

Jeanette A Studley

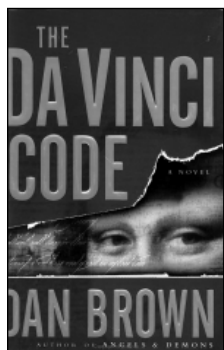
- Jeanette Studley

Friends of Access Services

In our last issue of *Loud and Clear*, a call went out for anyone interested in creating a Friends of Access Services group. A small steering committee met in October. We continue to welcome suggestions and interest. Call us at 703-324-8380; TTY 703-324-8365.

Most Popular Talking Books

Fiction



The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown. *RC 55735*

Professor Robert Langdon from *Angels and Demons* (*RC 51799*) investigates the crime scene of the Louvre's murdered curator. Joining him is French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu. The clues left behind pit two Catholic societies against each other in search of the Holy Grail. Some violence and some strong language.

Five Complete Hercule Poirot Novels by Agatha Christie. *RC 54003*

The ABC Murders involves a serial killer who leaves a railroad guide at each crime. *In Cards on the Table*, a case is solved by observing suspects playing bridge. *In Thirteen at Dinner*, an actress is accused of killing her husband. The other two mysteries find the Belgian private detective far from England.

King of Torts by John Grisham. *RC 55167*

Public defender Clay Carter assumes it is just another Washington, D.C. murder case when the defense of Tequila Watson is thrust into his hands. But Carter's investigation into Watson's drug abuse and subsequent rehabilitation uncovers corruption at a major pharmaceutical company. Some strong language.

Second Time Around by Mary Higgins Clark. *RC 55614*

Lynn Spencer asks financial reporter Carley Decarlo, her stepsister, to

investigate the case of Lynn's missing husband, Nick. Nick's medical research company, which may have been on the verge of discovering a cure for cancer, has been left nearly bankrupt by Nick's disappearance, along with substantial corporate assets.



No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. *RC 55503*

Mma "Precious" Ramotswe opens a detective agency in Botswana when she inherits her father's cattle. People consult her about straying husbands, fraudulent business associates, and missing children. Along the way she learns their life stories and tales of Africa.

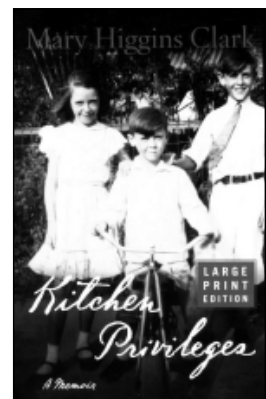
Non-fiction

Katharine Graham's Washington by Katharine Graham. *RC 55458*

An anthology of articles collected by *Washington Post* publisher Graham to reflect her "Sense of Washington: Its Flavor, Its History...Its Great Characters, Its Great Events." Twelve sections, each with an introduction by Graham, cover such areas as social Washington, wartime Washington, President-watching, Washington women and how Washington works.

Kitchen Privileges: A Memoir by Mary Higgins Clark. *RC 55276*

The mystery writer pens her autobiography describing events that led to her successful career. The book depicts her love-filled Irish upbringing in the Bronx during the Depression, a happy marriage that ended in tragedy; and the 1975 surprise success of her first mystery, *Where Are the Children*.



Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President: Wit and Wisdom From the Front Row at the White House by Helen Thomas. *RC 54800*

A long-time White House correspondent relates anecdotes about the nine

presidents she's covered, from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush, as well as the jokes and verbal sparring she enjoyed with them.

The Purpose-Driven Life: What On Earth Am I Here For? by Rick Warren. *RC 55648*

A Christian minister provides a guide to a forty-day spiritual journey to help readers discover the answer to one of life's most important questions: What on earth am I here for? Uses Biblical references and describes the benefits of changing one's perspective.

Best and the Brightest by David Halberstam. *RC 53020*

A study of the nature of political power: The decision-making process that caused U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and key figures in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Foreword in 2001 edition by Senator John McCain. Followed in 2001 by *War in a Time of Peace*. *RC 53021*.

Inova Hazel E. R. Widner Center for Low Vision

Dr. Suleiman Alibhai has announced the opening of a new low-vision center located in Annandale. The Inova Hazel E. R. Widner Center for Low Vision is a service provided by Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and was made possible thanks to a generous bequest from the late Hazel E. R. Widner. Mrs. Widner was diagnosed with macular degeneration and wished to help others with vision loss.

In addition to traditional low-vision care, the center will provide low-vision rehabilitation and occupational therapy. The goal is to address the independence, quality of life and safety of visually impaired individuals. Patients will learn how to use appropriate rehabilitative strategies and visual aids. In addition, referrals to community resources, including federal and state programs, support groups and mobility training will also be made available.

The center is located at:

3289 Woodburn Road, Suite 300 • Annandale Virginia 22003

Phone: 703-208-6020 • Fax: 703-208-6025

Tax Assistance

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service available to taxpayers with middle and low-incomes, with special emphasis on those 60 and older. Volunteers provide face-to-face tax preparation from February 1 through April 15. The Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, will have tax counselors available six days per week and the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Dr., will have counselors available two - three days per week. Call the Sherwood branch at 703-765-3645 and the Centreville branch at 703-830-2223 for exact days and times.

The Sherwood Regional Library will be known as a "super site," which is a new concept in the northern Virginia region this year. Tax-Aide plans to have a few tax sites open six days per week, including evenings and Saturdays, with consistent operating hours and more volunteers to better serve the taxpayers. In addition to the Sherwood Regional Library, the



other two super sites are the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale and the Sun Trust Bank of Vienna, 515 Maple Ave. Six other locations throughout the Northern Virginia area will operate a few days per week. The Centreville Regional Library is one of those sites.

ATMs With Audio Capacity

Triton, a leading manufacturer of automated teller machines (ATMs), has announced the development of an ATM equipped with audio-

guided transaction support. Developed in consultation with members of the disabled community and compliant with the proposed changes to existing ADA regulations, the Triton ATMs feature an audio port for the visually impaired and perform private audio transactions.

CapTel

CapTel is a phone service with a unique telephone that displays instant captioning. While you speak with the person you are calling, the captioning service displays written word-for-word captions of everything the other person says. It is available free-of-charge to active and retired federal employees, veterans and U.S. Tribal members. To use this service, you must have two separate telephone lines to connect to your CapTel. Information provided by the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons. You may call them or visit the Web site at: www.captionedtelephone.com.

2005 Calendars

Did you know calendars are available in Braille, print/Braille or large print? The National Library Service has published a list of sources. You may call our office for a copy or to request contact information. Prices vary, but some calendars are free.

Free Health Insurance Advice

The Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) is a health insurance counseling program administered by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. VICAP assists senior citizens and persons with disabilities who need help understanding Medicare, Medigap, and Medicare HMOs. The program also offers guidance in purchasing long-term care insurance, sorting medical bills or forms, assistance with Medicaid problems, and ways to lower out-of-pocket medication costs.

■ ***continued on back***

Program counselors are volunteers who have received special training on health insurance issues and have been certified by the Virginia Department for the Aging and the Virginia State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance. They are not connected with any insurance company and their services are entirely free. Their purpose is to serve you objectively and confidentially.

Counselors can assist you by explaining policy benefits and help you to understand, file or resolve health insurance claims. Depending on your needs, counseling may be provided by telephone; in the program's Fairfax office; or in your home. For more information, to schedule an appointment or to arrange for a speaker for a group, please call 703-324-5851.

**SAVE
The Date**

Sight and Sound
A Technology and Resource Fair:
Focus on Vision and Hearing

Friday, September 15, 2005

12000 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax VA 22035

The 2005 Technology and Resource Fair will feature a variety of vendors demonstrating assistive technology, as well as informative presentations by low vision specialists. Resource providers will be available to answer questions as well as provide resource materials. Watch *Loud and Clear* for final details. Mark your calendars now, so you can reserve your transportation well in advance.

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FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual PT.138

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Counselors can assist you by explaining policy benefits and help you to understand, file or resolve health insurance claims. Depending on your needs, counseling may be provided by telephone; in the program's Fairfax office; or in your home. For more information, to schedule an appointment or to arrange for a speaker for a group, please call 703-324-5851.

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